

February 25, 2005

WEST VIRGINIA 2004 EGG PRODUCTION

WEST VIRGINIA -- Egg production during the year ending November 30, 2004 totaled 273 million eggs. This was 1 percent above the 2003 production of 271 million eggs.

Layer numbers during 2004 averaged 1.26 million, up 2 percent from 2003. The average annual production per layer was 217 eggs, 3 eggs less than the 2003 average. Pullets for 2004 totaled 816,000, up 8 percent from 2003. Other chickens totaled 175,000 in 2004, up 36 percent from 2003.

Total number of chickens on hand on December 1, 2004 (excluding commercial broilers) was 2.26 million head, up 10 percent from 2003.

The total value of all chickens on December 1, 2004 was \$12.7 million, up 31 percent from the December 1, 2003 value of \$9.68 million. The average value of \$5.60 per bird on December 1, 2004 was up \$0.90 from 2003.

UNITED STATES – Egg production during the year ending November 30, 2004 totaled a record high 89.1 billion eggs, up 2 percent from 2003. Table egg production, at 76.2 billion eggs, was up 2 percent from the previous year. Hatching egg production, at 12.9 billion eggs, up slightly from 2003.

Layer numbers during 2004 averaged 342 million, up 1 percent from the year earlier. The annual average production per layer on hand in 2004 was 260 eggs, up slightly from the 2003 average of 259.

Total number of chickens on hand on December 1, 2004 (excluding commercial broilers) was 454 million birds, up 1 percent from last year.

The total value of all chickens on December 1, 2004 was \$1.12 billion, up slightly from December 1, 2003. The average value decreased from \$2.48 per bird on December 1, 2003, to \$2.47 per bird on December 1, 2004.